

how to access investment characteristic and fee information for alternatives in which they are not invested.

My bill also requires service providers to disclose to employers various fee and expense information in advance of a contract. This will ensure that employers have the information they need to bargain effectively with plan service providers and to keep costs at reasonable levels for participants.

Providers must give the employer an estimate of total fees and a detailed and itemized list of all the services to be provided under the contract. Providers that offer multiple bundled services must separate the fees charged under the contract into fees for investment management, fees for administration and recordkeeping and fees paid to intermediaries or other third-parties. Providers must also disclose whether they expect to receive payments from third-parties in connection with providing services to the plan, also referred to as revenue-sharing, and if so, must name those parties and the amount expected to be received from each. This revenue-sharing information is critical so that employers understand how their providers are being paid and whether any such financial relationships give rise to potential conflicts of interest. Plan service providers must also provide this detailed disclosure statement to employers every year the contract is in place and following any material modification of the contract. In addition, employers must make such statements available to plan participants via web posting and upon written request so that those employees who want to delve into the details of the plan's financing can do so.

The Department of Labor's guide on 401(k) fees states that fees and expenses generally fall into three categories: plan administration, investment, and individual services fees. By requiring all service providers, whether they just provide recordkeeping or if they perform it all, to disclose fees in broad categories, such as these, companies and employees can better evaluate what they are getting for what price they pay. It is my understanding that some service providers are already disclosing more than what is required. I hope that we can capture those "best practices" and implement them across the board so that all workers and employers have the best data available.

Additionally, my bill would apply not only to 401(k) plans, but to all tax-preferred, participant-directed defined contribution plans, including 403(b) plans and governmental 457(b) plans. These amendments are all within the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, penalties for not complying will be taxes assessed per violation per day, subject to a cap. I hope to work with the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL, to address this issue within the Committee very soon as I know he shares my concern that the taxpayers' interests be protected.

Despite the news that 8 in 10 participants do not know what fees are charged, there is some good news out there too. One recent study from the Investment Company Institute, or ICI, found that the asset-weighted expense ratios for stock mutual funds in 401(k) plans fell last year over the prior year. This may be in response to another finding from ICI—that more workers are considering fees over the investment's track record.

It is my hope that this bill will provide much more information about plan fees and ex-

penses in a useful way without overwhelming recipients. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

INTRODUCTION OF SERVICE-MEMBER STUDENT LOW INTEREST RELIEF ACT

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Servicemember Student Loan Interest Relief Act—a bill to ease the financial burden on our men and women in uniform.

When servicemembers of the Armed Forces are deployed overseas, the last thing they want to worry about is how they will be able to afford their student loan payments when they get back. But that is the reality for thousands of our Nation's servicemembers today.

Although current law grants servicemembers a deferment on paying back their student loans while they are on active duty, the interest on these loans still keeps accruing during their service. When our men and women in uniform return from months and sometimes years of service, many of them come home to student loan debt that has ballooned during their absence and that they will have to struggle to pay back.

The Servicemember Student Loan Interest Relief Act stops student loan interest from accruing as long as a servicemember is on active duty, up to maximum of 5 years. This bill will apply to active duty servicemembers of any branch of the military, including reserve units and the National Guard.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the legislation I am introducing today will save the average servicemember between \$1,183 and \$1,479 over the course of a 12–15 month activation period, with even more savings realizable for those activated for longer periods.

Military service requires those who serve our country to make tremendous sacrifices—personally, professionally, and financially. Let us give our brave men and women the peace of mind of knowing that after defending us on the front lines, they will not return home to bill collectors and creditors breaking down their doors.

Help me serve our Nation's bravest while they are off serving us. Support the Servicemember Student Loan Interest Rate Relief Act.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, last week on Thursday, September 27, 2007, I was absent for rollcall votes 922 and 923. Had I been present to vote, I would have voted "yea" on both rollcall vote 922 and rollcall vote 923.

IN MEMORY OF CPL GRAHAM
McMAHON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, these moments are important.

Let us remember and honor the life and sacrifice of Graham McMahon.

At times like these, I think long and hard about what matters most. Today, I took a moment to consider the meaning of his generosity—of his service.

Corporal McMahon spent a lot of time living in the valley between the forests. And yet today, it is we—I all of us—that stand in the shadow of his life.

Men like Graham are uncommon. Heroes—that's the term we use to describe men like him—but it is an incomplete term.

Graham understood the stakes; he was all too human and it is precisely because of his humanity—of his heart, his soul—that we are here tonight, grieving his loss.

Scripture tells us that, "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."

The lessons of the Gospel of John are just as true now, as they were then.

Corporal Graham McMahon woke up every day; put on his uniform and did what was needed. He did this out of love; he did this in an act of faith.

Graham had faith in us; he had faith that his country knew what it was doing when it sent him to serve across the seas. And he had faith in us to ensure that his sacrifice—and the sacrifice of his brothers and sisters in arms were remembered.

My friends, we live in challenging times; but we live free because of men, because of citizens—like Graham.

It is important for us all to remember that when Graham left for Iraq, he knew that he might not come home alive. But that did not stop him from performing his duty.

We must honor that memory by ensuring that we do ours. It is our duty to care for the military and the ones loved by them. It is our duty to ensure that we take good care of not merely the fallen, but the wounded struggling to return to the life they knew. And it is our duty to commit ourselves here, tonight, to making America the kind of place worthy of men such as CPL Graham McMahon.

His life casts a long shadow—a shadow that will endure through the years. Let us renew ourselves to celebrating that life and sustaining the community he loved.

FLOOD INSURANCE REFORM AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 27, 2007

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3121) to restore the financial solvency of the national flood insurance program and to provide for such